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STAT

The Nation

Beating Around Mr. Bush May Be All Over

President Ford has removed the main obstacle to the confirmation of George Bush as director of the Central Intelligence Agency by excluding Mr. Bush from his list of possible Vice-Presidential running mates, assuming Mr. Ford himself is nominated for the Presidency. The exclusion apparently placated those Senators who believe that a politician should not be placed in charge of the agency.

The objection to a politician derives from a fear that the nation's intelligence apparatus, including dossiers and surveillance capabilities, might be employed for partisan political purposes. Previous directors of the agency have been either career intelligence officials or persons with background in law, business, the universities or the military. Mr. Bush, in contrast, was a Congressman and a chairman of the Republican National Committee before taking his present post of envoy to Peking.

Some members of Congress have suggested that a person who was politically close to the President would give the chief executive tighter control over the agency.

But a majority of the Senate Armed Services Committee threatened to oppose Mr. Bush's nomination unless he were ruled out of the 1976 campaign. When the President complied, the committee voted 12 to 4 in favor of confirmation. The full Senate is expected to go along.